

**UPDATE ON USEPA s MERCURY ACTION PLAN**

- \* EPA is currently developing a Mercury Action Plan (MAP) that will outline the Agency s strategy for addressing multi-media mercury pollution and exposure over the next several years, within the framework of EPA s statutory authorities.
- \* When completed, this plan will help coordinate EPA s various environmental programs that address mercury pollution in air and water and on land. The document will include the Agency's mercury goals; plans for actions to reduce anthropogenic releases of mercury and reduce exposure to mercury, and plans for measuring progress toward goals. The Plan will also include a baseline of mercury health and environmental data, and a description of how existing regulatory and voluntary mercury programs at EPA and elsewhere are addressing aspects of mercury health and environmental concerns.
- \* EPA s Mercury Action Plan will be reviewed by other federal agencies as it is developed, and will help EPA coordinate with other federal agencies, but it is not intended to be a federal-wide plan endorsed by all federal agencies.
- \* Staff work on the Mercury Action Plan began in the late 1990s, and a first draft was published for public comment in 1998. The draft document has since been revised internally several times to incorporate new information on mercury. EPA expects to publish a new draft Mercury Action Plan for public comment in the fall of 2003, and to issue a final Mercury Action Plan in the fall of 2004. In order to make progress toward goals in the MAP to reduce and prevent anthropogenic mercury releases into the environment, Agency programs are pursuing voluntary as well as regulatory activities.
- \* The Agency will continue to provide opportunities during 2003 for interested stakeholders to engage on these important mercury issues. EPA will consider current information on mercury pollution, exposure, and management options along with stakeholder views and recommendations as a part of the Agency s process to finalize its Mercury Action Plan and to consider any potential changes to EPA s ongoing programs.

**Opportunities for Stakeholder Input to EPA regarding Mercury Action Plan**

**2003**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| April-May | Listening Sessions on Mercury with industry groups; public interest groups; municipalities, and tribal groups. |
| July 8-9  | Two-day Stakeholder Forum to discuss EPA s draft mercury goals and priority areas for EPA focus.               |
| Fall      | Publish FR Notice of Availability for draft MAP for 60-day public comment period.                              |

**2004**

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| Fall | Publication of final EPA Mercury Action Plan. |
|------|---|